Chapter Eight
IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 Overall Approach to Implementation

Implementation of this plan must be done strategically and incrementally to maximize potential benefits from efforts expended. This chapter is meant to provide guidance on setting priorities among the numerous maintenance actions and individual projects described in previous sections of this document. Most Management Areas will require a combination of **maintenance actions** and **specific projects** – the former ongoing, the latter concentrated effort and resources directed toward a particular landscape element or area. Over time, the bulk of the Lincoln Park landscape will shift progressively toward ongoing maintenance and away from a restoration project basis. Deferred maintenance, evident in both Lincoln and many other parks, escalates the ultimate need for intensive remedial actions. While the projected cost of implementation is considerable, the fiscal and environmental cost of delay is much higher still.

It is the hope of the Urban Forestry Program that implementation of recommendations included in the Vegetation Management Plan will occur continuously over time, using this document as a guide. Assuming that much of the work can and must be accomplished by volunteer labor under the direction of the District staff responsible for Lincoln Park, additional resources also may be tapped to help fulfill plan goals. Capital project funds are unlikely to match the entire anticipated implementation need, and will require substantial supplementation.

Key to VMP implementation will be identifying and incorporating expertise already available among existing grounds personnel, and increasingly integrating plan recommendations into ongoing maintenance practices and special crew projects. This strategy is best summed up as working ever "smarter", with VMP guidance helping simplify the ordering of grounds management priorities and protocols.

Ongoing maintenance consists of the regular maintenance activities that are necessary simply to keep the Park in its current condition. The work encompassed by these activities is performed by Seattle Parks staff: mowing grass, taking care of landscape beds, removing hazard trees after windstorms, pruning, mulching beds, etc. There exist ample opportunities for volunteer involvement and stewardship within the framework of ongoing maintenance activities, such as invasive plant removal guided by Park staff.

As implementation of specific projects proceeds, expanding the volunteer base to help with stewardship of newly-planted areas will be critical to the success of these projects. Ensuring adequate stewardship prior to project implementation is strongly recommended.

Possible sources of implementation help include:

- Forming partnerships with local schools to encourage " service learning" activities.
- Building ties with specific user groups, such as cross-country runners and bird-watchers, to become advocates and undertake service projects relating to their interests.
- Utilizing Pro Parks Natural Area Crew for both maintenance and special projects.
- Establishing a vital, active "Friends of Lincoln Park" community group.
- Grant-writing efforts for special implementation projects.
- Integrating VMP implementation with other Park maintenance and capital projects, such as upcoming Colman Pool landscape renovation.

8.2 Implementation Priorities

The following actions should receive HIGH priority:

- Establish ongoing program of tree hazard monitoring and mitigation.
- Eradicate identified noxious weeds from park (i.e. Gorse & Hogweed).
- Maintain existing restoration sites (water new plantings, control weeds).
- Replace invasive ornamental plants (ivy, holly, cotoneaster, horse chestnut) in landscape beds with non-invasive species.
- Focus restoration resources on least compromised, highest value vegetation (forest interior, greensward groves).
- Restore habitat with highest potential value, regardless of existing condition (bluff bottom, forest edge).

The following actions should receive INTERMEDIATE priority:

- Remove Laurel at top of bluff and replace with Salal at established view corridors.
- Begin a Madrona replacement project.
- Create mulch beds to protect trees in areas of heavy use.
- Remove English Ivy from east park edge in Lawn/Ballfields Management Area.

The following should be assigned LOW priority, due to higher implementation and maintenance costs, as well as protracted labor required. Given likely poor cost:benefit ratios, these projects are least likely to attract either internal or outside funding:

- Restore severely infested or compromised areas that lack high potential value as landscape or habitat, even if returned to an intact condition.

8.3 Estimated Implementation Cost

The cost of landscape and forest restoration is high and can run in the neighborhood of $50,000 an acre for severely impacted areas. Unit costs vary substantially with extent of degradation and hazard mitigation to be remedied, physical site characteristics (degree of slope, slide history, accessibility, etc.), and availability/suitability for volunteer participation in specific restoration work. The table below lays out the estimated VMP implementation budget for the Lincoln Park VMP by Management Area, reflecting particulars of vegetation type and physical condition.

Management Area	Acreage	Cost per Acre	Total Cost / M.A.
Shoreline	16.2	$3,704	$60,000
Bluff	18.7	$4,278	$80,000
Forest	49.8	$12,048 – 15,060	$600,000 – 750,000
Passive Use Greensward	7.5	$6,667 – 10,000	$50,000 – 75,000
Lawn / Ballfields	6.8	$1,176 – 1,765	$8,000 – 12,000
Active Use Greensward	6.6	$9,091 – 12,879	$60,000 – 85,000
Native Ornamental Landscape	8.9	$8,427 – 10,112	$75,000 – 90,000
TOTAL	**114.5 acres**		**$933,000 – 1,152 ,000**

It must be noted that at this time no Seattle Parks and Recreation funding is budgeted for implementation of the Vegetation Management Plan, although funded pilot projects served as a precursor to plan creation. This document provides the foundation for securing appropriate implementation resources over time. Estimates that follow reflect the management

recommendations of this plan, not necessarily full area restoration if that has been deemed unrealistic to pursue. Cost ranges represent likely investment required, above and beyond existing operations and maintenance funding.

8.4 Implementation Strategies and Funding Sources

Identified by Management Area below are implementation strategies and funding mechanisms appropriate to or available for each. Best fit depends on individual restoration needs, as well as potential suitability of particular approaches to address such needs. In some locations, for example, large groups of volunteers may work effectively, whereas for certain tasks and locations, only professionals, staff or contractors will be a good match. Sources and strategies given reflect these distinctions.

Shoreline Management Area

Sources:
2003 Lincoln Park South Beach Landscape Restoration Project – $35,000

Strategies:
Build on upcoming capital project by soliciting additional grant funding.

Bluff Management Area

NOTE: This budget covers only limited management/restoration of targeted bluff areas.

Sources:
No current funding identified. ProParks Natural Area & Tree Crews could assist District

Strategies:
Much of required work can be accomplished using Parks Staff for special projects (gorse removal, periodic laurel & holly coppicing at viewpoints, tree hazard monitoring). Volunteers can supplement staff for directed weeding, invasives removal, mulching & planting projects, where slope and access do not present undue hazard (along trail corridors, in flatter areas near top or bottom of bluff). Contract arborist or Parks Tree Crew must perform any hazard mitigation pruning/removal work.

Forest Management Area

Sources:
No funding is currently available for forest restoration beyond pilot projects already undertaken in 2001. Department of Neighborhoods Tree Fund potentially can provide replacement trees and shrubs for community planting projects in this MA. King County DNR grants are another good source for habitat-enhancement funding.

Strategies:
Volunteers can accomplish much of invasive plant control, mulching, planting, brush pile construction and trail blocking needed, via individual area "adoption," regular small group initiatives, or large event work parties. Knowledgeable staff will need to identify priority areas, tasks and techniques for volunteers to insure optimal benefit to vegetation resource, consulting this document for guidance. Establishment watering will need to be provided by staff or contractor.

Tree hazard monitoring and any related abatement pruning/removal work will require professional arborist involvement, either staff or contractor. Special, non-native tree groves require additional attention relating to pruning or replacement needs, beyond that typical for native forest.

Passive Use Greensward Management Area

Sources:

No funding beyond existing Operations and Maintenance budget exists at this time; however, ProParks Tree and Natural Area crews can supplement District resources. Department of Neighborhoods Tree Fund could provide replacement trees for community planting projects in this MA.

Strategies:

Volunteers can help control minor invasive plant infestations and place and replenish wood chips under trees, activities with highly-visible results well-suited to large groups because they are labor-intensive but require no specialty skills. Parks staff will need to correct turf drainage problems, either as a Crew project or if corrective underdrainage is required, as an identified landscape restoration project.

Tree management should continue to be addressed as it currently is, by Parks District Gardener with Tree Crew support, including periodic hazard monitoring, structural and hazard pruning and removals. If because of work load staff is unable to monitor and abate tree hazard at least annually, outside contractors should be hired to perform this work. Likewise, contract arborists may need to supplement Parks crews to maintain specimen trees in optimum condition.

Both Passive and Active Use Greenswards merit further attention by a Consulting Arborist/Landscape Architect team regarding the selection, location and cycles of tree replacement. A palette and longterm plan should be developed to supplement this VMP.

Lawn / Ballfields Management Area

Sources:

Existing Maintenance and Operations funding should cover most implementation needs. Hazard tree monitoring and abatement, and replacement tree planting and mulching may somewhat expand existing maintenance requirements, but existing Parks Staff activity should accomplish most VMP objectives for this MA. Department of Neighborhoods Tree Fund could provide replacement trees for community planting projects.

Strategies:

Volunteers can play a limited role, doing mulching for perimeter plantings and bases of existing trees: target recruitment among scheduled ballfield users. The bulk of vegetation care (trees and turf) needs to be supplied by skilled Parks staff or contractors.

Active Use Greensward Management Area

Sources:

No funding exists at this time for specific support of VMP implementation in this MA. The current hazard tree abatement program could cover removal and replacement of specific highly-dangerous trees, although recent inventory and abatement have been completed and few additional candidates are likely to be identified during the life of this program. ProParks Tree Crew could assist with some of the area's special tree care needs. Understory enhancements would make an appropriate Department of Neighborhoods or private grant project, particularly if success is monitored through time and findings disseminated. This MA merits high priority for capital project funding.

Strategies

Volunteers can help Parks staff place and replenish wood chips under trees, and potentially spearhead understory enhancement planning and implementation.

Recruitment may be fruitful among groups reserving shelters and those routinely using area recreational facilities (playground, picnic sites, wading pool).

Parks staff will need to correct turf drainage problems, either as a Crew project or if corrective underdrainage is required, as an identified landscape restoration project.

Tree management should continue to be addressed by Parks District Gardener with Tree Crew support, including periodic hazard monitoring, structural and hazard pruning and removals. If staff work load precludes hazard and disease monitoring and abatement on at least an annual basis, outside contractors should be hired to help perform this work. Although responsible hazard management in high use areas is the paramount concern, contract arborists may need to help Parks crews to maintain specimen trees in optimum condition, as well.

Native / Ornamental Landscape Management Area

Sources:

No current source exists to fund implementation in this MA. Parks staff and volunteers can accomplish significant work without additional funding. Replacement plants may be available for community-based projects through Department of Neighborhoods Tree Fund or other grant source. Community college horticulture students potentially could provide invasive ornamentals identification and alternative taxa list as a class project.

Strategies:

ProParks and District staff together can provide much of needed implementation over time, supplemented by short-term and longterm volunteer projects. Special crew or funded landscape restoration projects could be directed toward VMP implementation. "Search and destroy" missions to eliminate invasive ornamentals may appeal to skilled, independent volunteers, while mulching and mass ivy removal would best suit one-time, large group work parties. A horticultural consultant or professional intern should be engaged to confirm all invasive ornamental taxa found in MA and develop a list of plants appropriate to replace each, assigning implementation priorities among beds or species. Tree disease and hazard monitoring should be performed regularly by skilled staff, or a consulting arborist if staff time precludes. Parks Tree Crew can mitigate identified hazards.